

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

APRIL 9, 2015

Questions and Comments Raised At First Budget Review Session

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council spent more than two and a half hours going over parts of City Manager Michael McLaughlin's budget with him, Assistant Manager David Moran, City Treasurer Jeff Williams and Information Technology Director Glen Worley at an April 1 worksession. Council primarily asked questions, made comments or just listened. They identified no significant issues to be resolved nor made any changes prior to budget adoption.

This session covered a general budget overview, revenue estimates, the General Government section of the budget (administration, finance, information technology and community promotion), non-departmental expenses, fund transfers and capital funds. Responding to Mayor Emmett Jordan's request for fewer budget worksessions, this first one added to the normally covered items non-departmental expenses, fund transfers and some other funds. A later story will discuss these funds.

In reviewing the new Fiscal Year 2016 budget, which begins on July 1, McLaughlin has proposed expenditures of \$26,437,000 for the General Fund, the city's

main vehicle for accounting for taxes and other monies received and for all operating department expenses. Estimated revenues are \$26,171,600. Expenditures represent less than a one percent increase over those for the current year. McLaughlin recommends keeping the property tax rate the same as for the current year.

Surplus

He pointed out to council that the projected undesignated and unreserved fund balance (surplus) is expected to be \$3.8 million at the end of the new fiscal year, or 14.6 percent of proposed expenditures. These funds constitute the city's rainy day funds, available if a major unforeseen emergency expenditure arises or a drastic revenue shortfall occurs.

Since the budget estimates \$265,400 less in revenues than expenditures, McLaughlin already proposes reducing this fiscal year's year-end surplus of \$4.1 million by that amount. He also noted that his budget calls for transferring \$300,000 to the 2001 Bond Fund to reduce a deficit there. Nevertheless, the \$3.8 million at the end of the next fiscal year will be more than \$750,000 greater than at the beginning of this fis-

cal year if the estimate of an \$850,000 excess of revenues over expenses proves correct. If so, council might wish in September to consider allocating more funds for financial needs unmet in this budget. Councilmember Judith Davis agreed that this would be a matter for consideration when final year-end figures are determined.

Councilmember Silke Pope asked what excess undesignated and unreserved funds could be used for. McLaughlin recommended against using them to cover continuing operating expenses but instead for one-time purposes like a capital project or as a match to grant funds obtained. He noted the past winter could have been hard on city road surfaces and that there may be a need to spend more on street repairs and resurfacing.

Revenues

Williams reviewed the budget's revenue estimates. He noted that city property values are improving. Assessments for rental apartments are particularly rising, he said. Staff expects \$60,000 in new revenues as well from the development occurring in Greenbelt Station. On the other hand, there is a continuing high rate of commercial office space vacancies. Jordan said it was 27 percent as compared to 20 to 21 percent for Prince George's County as a whole. The loss of two restaurants recently was noted as

See **BUDGET**, page 6

Former City Councilmember Thomas X. White Dies

Longtime former Greenbelt City Councilmember and community activist Thomas X. White died March 29, 2015, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore after battling cancer for two years. He was 80. A 30-year member of the Greenbelt City Council, serving as mayor pro tem four terms; Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), board and committee member; GATe board member; founding board member of the Greenbelt Community Foundation; and News Review board president and city council reporter, Mr. White contributed his entire adult life to those institutions he found important to a good life in Greenbelt.

A native Washingtonian and one of 18 siblings, Mr. White was raised in the family home at 15th and East Capitol Streets, N.E. He attended Holy Comforter Parochial School and graduated from Gonzaga College High School in 1953. After one year at Georgetown University, Mr. White enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1954, following in the tradition of his father and older brothers. He was assigned to the Hospital Corps School, graduating second in his class of 100.



Thomas X. White

First stationed at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, he then served with the antisubmarine aircraft squadron aboard the USS Valley Forge. While in the Navy, Mr. White married his childhood sweetheart Helen Bryan. They were assigned to Argentina, Newfoundland, where their first child was born in 1957. In 1965 he began participating in reserve drilling, becoming affiliated with a select reserve unit in Bethesda. He retired from the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1988 after 34 years of military service.

After five years of active military service, the White family moved to Greenbelt so that he could continue his education at the University of Maryland, where he received a degree in microbiology in 1962 and then did graduate work in business administration. During his student years Mr. White began a life-long career in the rapidly expanding biotechnology field that included early jobs as lab technician at the National Institutes of Health and then at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. He retired in 2001 as associate vice

See **WHITE**, page 4

Artful Afternoon Is Sunday

Celebrate the arrival of spring with an Artful Afternoon at the Community Center on Sunday, April 12. From 1 to 3 p.m., make towers of flowers in a free craft workshop with Mary Gawlik, artist-in-residence. See Gawlik's work and that of her eight fellow artists-in-residence in a studio open house and sale from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit the new exhibition at the Community Center Art Gallery featuring poetic landscape iPhone photography by Karen Klinedinst. The exhibition is open during all facility hours and continues through June 5.

See the museum's current exhibit Greenbelt: The First 75 Years, exploring the city's history through an interactive timeline at

the Community Center. For more local history, tour the Greenbelt Museum's historic house at 10-B Crescent Road; tours are available 1 to 5 p.m. for a nominal fee.

Artful Afternoons are a program of the Greenbelt Recreation Department. The Community Center is located at 15 Crescent Road. Most activities are free. For more information, call 301-397-2208. For more creative fun, see the Recreation Department's spring activity guide available online at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/arts. All programs are open to both residents and non-residents of Greenbelt. City of Greenbelt arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

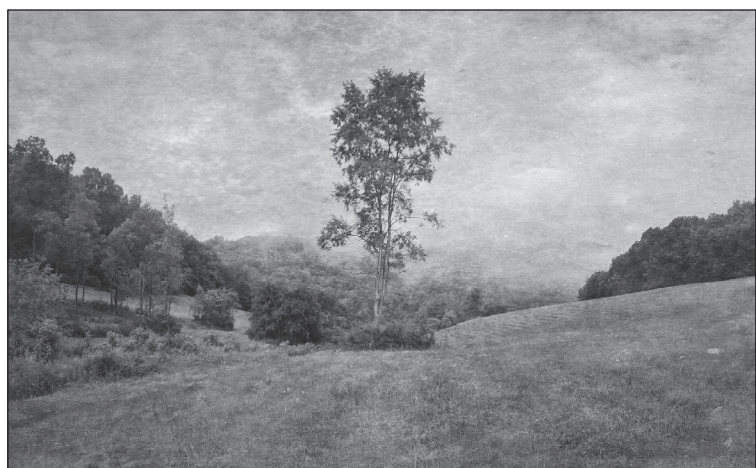


PHOTO BY KAREN KLINEDINST

Karen Klinedinst's poetic landscape iPhone photography exhibit is open in the Community Center through June 5.

What Goes On

Saturday, April 11
9 a.m. to noon, Donation Drop-off, Parking Lot behind Municipal Building
Sunday, April 12
1 to 4 p.m., Artful Afternoon, Community Center
Monday, April 13
6 p.m., Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Center, Room 103
8 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv
Wednesday, April 15
7:30 p.m., Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center
Budget Worksessions
7:30 p.m., Budget Worksession on Museum, Grants and Contributions and
8:30 p.m., Budget Worksession on Public Safety, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

News Review's Skolnik Retires, Will Be Honored on May 30

by Sandra A. Lange

Elaine Skolnik, the grand dame of the Greenbelt News Review, retired from the staff this year. To honor her 60+ years serving this newspaper and community, the News Review board is hosting a luncheon at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel on Saturday, May 30. See invitation on page 8 for information on how to sign up to attend.

Also, starting with this issue, we will be reprinting a number of articles about Elaine from past special issues. Friends and colleagues are invited to send the News Review reminiscences of events or stories about Elaine. The following is an article written about Elaine in connection with her 80th birthday in 2003.

Elaine Skolnik has spent nearly 50 of her 80 years at the helm of the News Review. It has been a long journey. The News Review, she explains, is a metaphor for her life, the cause of many joyous moments as well as occasional sorrow.

Her journey began shortly after she arrived in Greenbelt in 1952 with her husband Alfred and their two daughters, 4-year-old Barbara and 1-year-old Rita. Their son Richard was born in 1957. Elaine describes Greenbelt as love at first sight. "Oh, those tall pines and oaks, the lake, the large green areas on which the playgrounds beckoned to the children, the co-operative baby-

sitting club, the co-op nursery school and kindergarten. It was such a sweet life," she remembers fondly.

The Skolniks lived first in 45 court of Ridge Road where several members of the News Review resided. Later they moved to 2 court of Northway. Al's full time job was Chief of Inter-program Statistics for the Social Security Administration. But, his dream of being a journalist became a reality when he joined the News Review staff. Of her own skills, Elaine modestly proclaims, "I had no talent for writing" although she took over the "Our Neighbors" column

See **SKOLNIK**, page 7

Letters to the Editor

So Cavalier . . .

Our public schools leadership and GNR writers who cover them – probably ought to be less concerned with the achievement gap and more concerned with their own credibility gap.

The March 26 front page story on the state of affairs at PGCPs was a remarkable example. In it, author Jim Giese makes the plainly incredible claim that “The school system has the second largest budget in the country.” (Ranking second nationally, L.A. has more than five times the number of students in P.G.; it and many other systems spend much more overall than we do.) Giese also recounts that Rushern Baker’s proposed FY 2016 school budget totals \$1.3 billion when in reality it’s \$1.9 billion. Finally, the article uncritically ascribes to our new school board member, Lupi Grady, the outlandish assertion that “student enrollment increased this year by 33,500” when the Washington Post put the uptick at under 3,000!

Candidly, it’s hard to fathom how any newspaper could be so cavalier with key facts – and so evidently indifferent to the sharply escalating burdens on taxpayers. In the intervening week, though, the paper hasn’t caught or corrected any one of these egregious gaffes.

Unfortunately, not just the numbers are awry; the school budget process has been abused badly, too, albeit by county leaders. Why was the final, full version of the 370-page budget proposal released to the public on March 24 when the cover letter was signed by the school board chair (the County Executive’s former brother-in-law) a full month earlier? Did the school board even see the full budget request in February before it hastily approved an emailed 4-page summary of a nearly \$2 billion obligation of public funds?! See for yourself: <http://goo.gl/eE5Qkd> vs. the belatedly published full version <http://www1.pgcp.org/budget/boe2016budget.htm>. And why did the board suspend the rules to rush through a multi-year strategic plan on first reading – weeks after approving the budget to fund it?

Why weren’t these questions asked? Such slapdash tactics ought to alarm voters and embarrass officials. Alas, so far it’s been rubber stamps and unseemly deference from the school board and journalists, not least at GNR.

In contrast, I appreciate that the article reported the disturbing news that city tax dollars have been used to remove mold and buy equipment in county school buildings, plainly responsibilities of PGCPs, not Greenbelt or ACE.

So why no reporting in the April 2 GNR story on the proposed city budget, also by Giese, about our City Manager designating \$200,000 to rehab and upgrade five currently unusable classrooms in the old Greenbelt Middle School – a building owned by PGCPs?!

Even if the city is allowed to use those rooms briefly for city purposes, the overcrowding inside north county schools makes it likely PGCPs will snatch back that space anytime, permanently and without reimbursement to the city, as school officials have

explicitly said. Surely Greenbelt leaders will not allow themselves to be so nakedly hoodwinked? With its existing FY2015 budget of \$1.8 billion, why is PGCPs not living up to basic responsibilities, counting instead on city taxpayers to foot these county bills?!

In the same way our city animal shelter has become the de facto facility for much of north county and neighboring municipalities, are Greenbelt residents expected to disproportionately subsidize county schools, too – that is, on top of our already-exorbitant county tax burdens?! Is there no limit to legislative largesse with taxpayer dollars when schools are concerned? And isn’t GNR, like any newspaper, supposed to serve as a check against such procedural abuses by public officials?

Ultimately, if the News Review was less credulous, it might be more credible. Certainly, readers would benefit from reliable facts, and we all might just see how sketchy and out of control PGCPs budget practices and spending have truly become. As it is, the yawning credibility gap does not merit more trust.

Andy Carruthers
Editor’s Note: See correction.

Totally Thankful Little OLD Lady

On Easter Monday about mid-day while shopping at Co-op, I checked out and thought I had put my little purple wallet in my personal shopping cart. Later that day there was a knock on my door; an honest citizen had turned the wallet in and then, to my great surprise, a nice young lady who works at Co-op brought it to me. Returned before I had even realized it was missing! Not a penny was missing! I LOVE living in Greenbelt. Thank you!

Linnea Ruth Berge

Want Wind Power?

For those who are interested in wind power for their homes, the Greenbelt Wind Group and others in the area are working on a group purchase through Groundswell. We will have a table at the Greenbelt Community Church on Sunday, April 12 at noon and at the Green Man Festival in May. The goal is to sign up 1,500 people in a four-state area by Earth Day, April 21. There is no commitment until a group purchase agreement is negotiated and the individual agrees to participate.

Need more information? Try energy@groundswell.org or gc-cjane@aol.com.

Jane Young

Correction

There were several errors in the March 26 article, New Budget is a Step to the Top 10 Schools. The Prince George’s County public school system has the highest enrollment in the state, with more than 125,000 students, and the second highest proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget at \$1.93B. Enrollment increased by 3,500 students this year.

At The Library

Tuesday, April 14, 7 p.m. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: Harriet Tubman’s Homegirl, presented by Lavonda Broadnax, will be the next session of the spring season in the African History and Culture Lecture Series arranged by historian C.R. Gibbs.

Introduction to Medicare

Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. The Prince George’s County Department of Family Services, State Health Insurance Assistance Program presents Introduction to Medicare. RSVP to Taylor Ferguson at 301-265-8450.

Monday, April 13, 7 p.m. Chinese/English Preschool Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people. This bilingual storytime includes children’s stories, songs, rhymes and other activities in Chinese and English.

Tuesday, April 14, 7 p.m.: Infants and Toddlers Program – Books at Bedtime for ages 0 to 3, limit 20 people. Sing-alongs, stories and quiet play activities will be presented to encourage engagement between caregivers and children. Focus will be on age-appropriate social/emotional, communication and literacy skills.

Wednesday, April 15, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Preschool Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people.

Thursday, April 16, 10:15 a.m. Baby Storytime for ages 12 to 24 months, limit 20 people; 11:15 a.m. Baby Laptime Storytime for ages birth to 12 months, limit 20 people; 2:15 p.m. Toddler Storytime, for ages 2 to 3, limit 20 people.

Poetry in Hiding

Monday, April 13 through Saturday, April 18. Poems have been hidden throughout the library. Fill in the missing words on your scavenger hunt sheets by finding the poems.

Read to Rover

Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m. Read to Rover is for children ages 6 to 11 and helps them build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially trained therapy dogs. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required. Call the library at 301-345-5800 for more information.

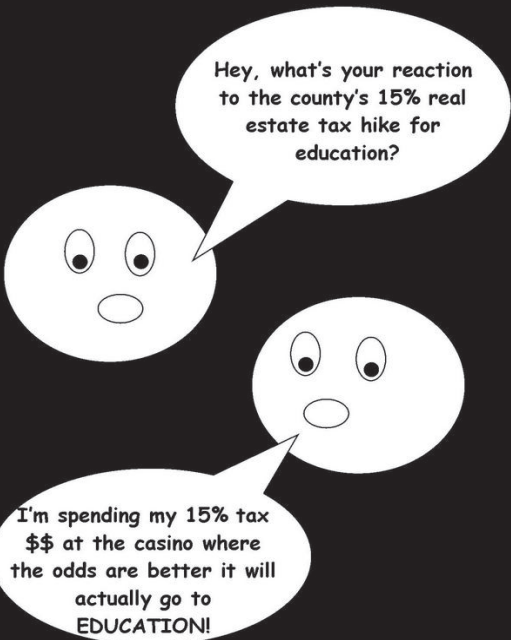
Explorations Unlimited Dementia Melodies

Explorations Unlimited welcomes a special guest on Friday, April 17. Steve Little will perform with his guitar and tell stories of playing music at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. What remains when Alzheimer’s sets in? A vacant stare isn’t always an empty one. The brain remembers music long after it has forgotten everything else. With stories and songs, come along on one man’s journey playing music for our elder community.

Little plays his own original compositions as well as music from the Great American Songbook. He has played for audiences up and down the East Coast for more than four decades. Some of his favorite audiences, he says, are those in elder care, whose more active years may be over, but who still have a lot to give. Through more than 1,000 concerts over the past 14 years, Little has found the universal healing power of music is the path to their hearts.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center in Room 201. Everyone is welcome. For details call 301-397-2208.

“ My Two Cents ” with Sense and Nonsense



Vintage Jewelry Sale at Mishkan Torah

On Sunday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Sisterhood at Mishkan Torah Synagogue will sponsor its open Annual Vintage Jewelry Sale.

A wide array of vintage and

costume jewelry will be featured, including handcrafted, semi-precious items. There will also be a minor jewelry repair station.

Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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email: newsreview@verizon.net

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas X. White, president; Cathie Meetre, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Tom Jones.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Community Events

GHI Notes

Thursday April 9, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session), Board Room

Friday April 10, OFFICE CLOSED. For emergency maintenance service call 301-474-6011.

Sunday April 12, 1 p.m., Nominations and Elections (Ice Cream Social), Board Room

Monday April 13, 7 p.m., Member Outreach Committee Meeting, Board Room;

7:30 p.m., Marketing Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby

Tuesday April 14, 7:30 p.m., Historic Preservation Task Force Meeting, Board Room

Wednesday April 15, 7 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting, GHI Library;

7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday April 16, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting, Board Room;

7 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby

Saturday April 18, 11 a.m., Pre-Purchase Orientation – Board Room

Lakewood Meeting To Be Held April 13

The Lakewood Civic Association will hold a meeting and election of officers on Monday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Baptist Church. All residents of the Lakewood community are invited to attend. Other topics on the agenda include finalizing plans for a Lakewood-wide yard sale to be held Saturday, April 18 and planning for the annual picnic.



Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Thursday, April 9, Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic by James and Martha from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, April 10, John Guernsey plays American standards on the piano from 7 to 8 p.m. The Hillbilly Gypsies bring old timey West Virginia bluegrass music to the Café from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Dinner reservations are recommended.

Saturday, April 11, Bruce Kritt plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by Guernsey playing blues and jazz on the piano from 7 to 8 p.m. Megan Jean and the KFB make their debut at the Café from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended for this popular East Coast duo.

Sunday, April 12, the Deaf Brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The Not2Cool Jazz Trio will play from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. In the evening, a CD release concert with singer and songwriter Annette Wasilik will be held from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14, Double Sharp offers up bluegrass, classical, rock and jazz music from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, the monthly Pub Quiz from 7 to 9 p.m. New teams are always welcome. Thursday, April 16, Mid-Day Melodies with Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic by Joe Harris from 7 to 10 p.m.

Free Nutrition/Wellness Seminars

Greenbelt Community Center
Contact:
rjohnson@muih.edu
for program information

Star Party Saturday

The public is invited to a star party on Saturday evening, April 11, hosted by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, located at Northway Fields. Venus, Jupiter, the Orion Nebula and the Cigar Galaxy should be visible, as well as other galaxies and nebulae. The Moon will not be up, so the sky should be about as dark as it gets in our area. As always, visitors are welcome to set up their own telescopes on the hill.

Observing will begin at around 8:30 p.m. and continue for about two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

Computer Club

The Greenbelt Computer Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 112. Everyone is welcome to the discussions of computers and consumer electronics.

Lions Club Seeking Donations for Eyes

The Greenbelt Lions Club will be requesting donations in front of Greenway Center's Safeway and the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket on April 10 to 12 and April 24 to 26. All of the money collected will be given to the Wilmer Eye Clinic of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. These funds help finance their research programs and support Wilmer's low-vision outreach program LOVERNET, which helps people with low vision capabilities function in society. There is a special relationship between the Wilmer Eye Clinic and the Lions Clubs in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Help The Lions
Help the Blind
White Cane Days
April 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26
Entrance to Safeway & CO-OP

WHITE CANE DAY

County Will Offer Seminar on Medicare

On Tuesday, April 14, the Prince George's County State Health Insurance Assistance Program will offer a free seminar, Introduction to Medicare, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the small meeting room at the Greenbelt Library.

The seminar is intended for those who are new to Medicare and want help navigating their options for Medicare coverage. RSVP to Taylor Ferguson, 301-265-8450.

HEAR the NEWS REVIEW

Blind, visually impaired or print handicapped qualify for this free service.

Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed



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6198 GREENBELT ROAD
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301-220-1155

For directions visit
www.academy8theaters.com

Most features are \$5.50 all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D
R = ID Required

(!) = No passes, (!!)= No passes weekend
* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

WEEK OF APRIL 10

FRIDAY – SATURDAY

Furious 7, R (!!)
10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30
3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6, 6:30
7:30, 8:30, 9, 9:30, 9:50
It Follows, PG13
11:40, 2, 4:50, 7:10, 9:50
Home, PG
11, 11:45, 12:15, 1:20, 2, 3
3:40, 4:15**, 6, 6:45, 8:15, 9**
Get Hard, R
11:30, 1:50, 4:40
7, 10:25

SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY

Furious 7, R (!!)
10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30
3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6, 6:30, 7:30
It Follows, PG13
11:40, 2, 4:50, 7:10
Home, PG
11, 11:45, 12:15, 1:20, 2, 3
3:40, 4:15**, 6, 6:45
Get Hard, R
11:30, 1:50, 4:40, 7

THURSDAY

Paul Blart Mall Cop 2, PG
7
Unfriended, R
8
Furious 7, R (!!)
10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30
3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6, 6:30
7:30
It Follows, PG13
11:40, 2, 4:50, 7:10
Home, PG
11, 11:45, 12:15, 1:20, 2, 3
3:40, 4:15**, 6, 6:45
Get Hard, R
11:30, 1:50, 4:40, 7

Mishkan Torah's 12th Annual Jewelry Sale
Sunday, April 19, 2015, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Come Look! Find Bargains! Have Fun!
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD
www.mishkantorah.org 301-474-4223



Babe Ruth Baseball Signups

Players age16-18 call Bob @ 301 345-1033
Email: bbsonneveltdt@verizon.net

Players age13-15 call Mark @ 301 755-3315
Email: mark.markowich@t-mobile.com

Greenbelt Arts Center OPENING THIS WEEK



by Betty Ladas and Billie Colombaro
directed by Billie Colombaro

April 10-26
Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm
Sunday, April 12, 19 and 26 at 2:00pm
Ticket prices: \$22 General Admission,
\$18 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)

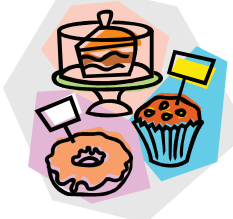
COMING SOON

Celtic Concert by the Homespun Ceilidh Band - May 1
A Raisin in the Sun – May 15-June 6 directed by Rikki Howie Lacewell

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP



Yard Sale & Bake Sale
April 18, 2015
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Rain or Shine)



Come and shop and have lunch.
Greenbelt Community Church
Hillside and Crescent Road

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbelttv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Have a kid interested in making videos?

GATeCREATE!

Offering elementary school-aged kids
a two-week, after-school program
Monday-Friday, May 11-21,
from 3-5PM at Beltway Plaza Mall
Middle school kids get their chance
Monday-Friday, June 8-19,
from 4-6PM at Beltway Plaza Mall

For more information, visit the GATe website or e-mail
greenbeltaccess@gmail.com for fees, application and
scholarship information.

See what's showing on Comcast 77 and Verizon FIOS 19
by visiting www.greenbelttv.org and click on "schedule"

WHITE continued from page 1

president after 25 years. The family soon moved to Woodland Way, where they raised their seven children. Mr. White was a member of the St. Hugh Council of Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Community of Greenbelt.

The Redskins

Along with his tireless professional and political activities, Mr. White always found time to pursue his passion for the Washington Redskins. He was a dedicated fan for more than 65 years. Through his brother-in-law he secured a position as an usher for the team at their first home, Griffith Stadium. With the opening of the new D.C. Stadium, later renamed for Robert F. Kennedy, the two men served continuously as ushers during the entire run of the Redskins at this venue, rarely, if ever, missing a home game. With the more recent move to FedEx Field, they continued their presence at home games with season passes.

In Greenbelt

Soon after moving into a GHI home, Mr. White began to attend board meetings and join committees. As a member of the GHI board, Mr. White served as treasurer. He maintained his interest in the financial welfare of GHI, continuing to serve on the finance committee. He also became active in the Greenbelt Jaycees. During the 60s and 70s Mr. White was vice chair of Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt and was one of the founders of SOCC – Save Our Community Committee, two early citizen organizations that were instrumental in preserving the character of Greenbelt by countering pressures for overdevelopment and stopping the planned location of schools on Parcel 1, now the Forest Preserve.

Mr. White was elected in 1973 to the Greenbelt City Council, where he served for three decades, a record for years on council. While on council he actively participated in county, regional, state and national organizations dealing with municipal affairs. He was inducted into the Maryland Municipal League Hall of Fame, where he served on the board, and the National League of Cities Advisory Council. He also served on committees of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Following his retirement from council in 2003, more than 150 people attended his retirement party. Then Mayor Judith Davis presented him with a proclamation reading, “White had played a leadership role in a multitude of city projects, fought to preserve the character of Greenbelt by controlling the scale of development, safeguarding open space, protecting the environment and maintaining a high standard for the quality of life expected by Greenbelt residents.”

After receiving an evening full of proclamations and accolades, Mr. White had the last word: “I’ve had a great ride. I have enjoyed serving you for 30 years.”

News Review

Following his retirement, Mr. White was invited to join the staff of the News Review. Over the past 11 years, he was one of several senior reporters to cover the many city council meetings and worksessions, always ready to accommodate the needs of other reporters in scheduling coverage, right up to the March 23 budget presentation, which he had agreed to cover but was not able to complete. He was a member of the board of directors and during 2014-15 served as president. His knowledge of council’s work made him an enormous asset to this newspaper.

Mr. White is survived by his wife Helen of the home; sisters Dorothy, Marie (Gerry) Helm and Sara Ruschaupt, and brothers, Paul (Isabel), Bernard (Nancy) and Michael (Janet) White; daughters Bernadette (Marco) Sandoval, Christine (Marco) White, Pamela White (Carl Quick) and Ellen White, and sons Mark and Thomas (Jennifer Beman); and 19 grandchildren. Son James predeceased his father.

A Mass of Christian Burial was performed at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Washington, D.C., a church in which Mr. White had attended Friday morning mass for four years while in high school.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in memory of Thomas White to the Catholic Community of Greenbelt, P.O. Box 653, Greenbelt, MD 20770; Elizabeth Seton High School Advancement Office, 5715 Emerson Street, Bladensburg, MD 20710; Gonzaga College High School, C/O Tom Cosgrove, 19 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001; or S.O.M.E., 71 O Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

In Memoriam
Tom White: A Personal Reflection

Tom White was unique. He was no sloganeering flag-waver, but his total dedication to and love for this community was made loud and clear to all of us through his hard work, persistence and long involvement in so many facets of our communal life. It is not my intention here to describe in detail his many accomplishments before, during and after his long service as a member of Greenbelt City Council – on the GHI board, the GATe board, the Greenbelt Community Foundation, the Greenbelt News Review and many others. However, his personal impact on me in the two endeavors in which we served together was strong and indelible.

In my very brief time on city council in 1983, Tom became something of a mentor to me. He never tried to influence my vote, but he was a sounding board and source of information about Greenbelt’s core values as well as the ways and means of Greenbelt politics. It was at that time that I got to know him and to value his friendship.

During his long association with the GATe board of directors, Tom served as vice president and treasurer and was a major contributor of ideas and effort to all of GATe’s projects, including the

GAVA/GATe animation program and the Utopia Film Festival. Active to the very end, he sent detailed financial reports to our 2015 annual meeting little more than one week before his passing, even though he was already physically unable to attend the meeting. His level of dedication will always be a source of inspiration to me.

Tom White was a man of strong opinions, and he was unabashedly outspoken about them, but he always based his opinions on thorough research and unsailable logic. Like many others, I sometimes agreed with him and sometimes disagreed. But I quickly learned that I had to do my own diligent research and rigorous reasoning in order to disagree. Tom White kept his opponents honest.

Obviously, I cannot speak for the entire Greenbelt community, but I am a part of that community, and I can certainly speak for myself. Tom White’s passing leaves in my heart a large gap which cannot be totally filled. Nevertheless, there is consolation in knowing that his memory and inspiration continue to occupy a part of that gap and will always remain with me. Thank you, Tom. Rest in peace.

– Bob Zugby



It was great to see some of our Greenbelt neighbors braving the chill at the Lake early on Easter morning for the annual Sunrise Service. There were joyful hymns, prayers and an inspiring sermon, put together by a loyal band of woman ministers and helpers from four of our local churches: Mowatt Memorial, Community Church, St. Hugh’s and Good Samaritan Lutheran. (Yes, just as on the first Easter morn, it was the women who led the way.) The sun shone through the woods on the hill just as the last Allelujah sounded. It was a wonderful way to start the day.

To send us information for Our Neighbors, email us at news-review@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will meet on Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads.

The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership.

Christianity And...

Nietzsche: April 22
The Will to Power

Camus: May 6
Absurdity & God

Poetry: May 20
Words, Rhythm & Prayer

2015 7:30pm at Greenbelt Baptist Church

101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4212



A study circle is now forming for “Reflections on the Life of the Spirit” to be held weekly in Greenbelt starting in May.

Info and sign-up at www.greenbeltbahais.org.

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

 Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
Spring Concert Friday 6:30pm

prod-i-gal ˌprə-di-gəl adj. - characterized by profuse or wasteful expenditure.

Greenbelt Baptist Church will be exploring the idea of a prodigal God by reading Timothy Keller's book *The Prodigal God* and how the gospel is not only for the sinner but also for those who trust in their damnable good works. Please write to sjunthank@gmail.com for more information.

101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community 

April 12, 10 a.m.
"Fracking the Interdependent Web"
Marilyn Moors, Guest Speaker,
with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate



Catholic Community of Greenbelt
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.



Mishkan Torah Congregation

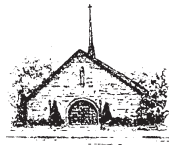
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children’s service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children’s Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Synagogue Features No Place on Earth

Mishkan Torah Synagogue is going to present a film, No Place on Earth, on Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. The 83-minute film relates to the theme of Yom HaShoah, the day in the Jewish calendar – April 16 – memorializing the six million Jews murdered by Nazis and their allies during the Holocaust of World War II.

In Ukraine, October 1942, Esther Stermer, with family members and a group of other families, seeks asylum underground to evade the Nazis. She and the others remain hidden for nearly a year and a half – the longest recorded uninterrupted underground survival occurrence.

Their story is unearthed by accident when cave explorer Chris Nicola stumbles upon remnants left behind by the cave dwellers. Through extensive research and determination, Nicola locates a few of the survivors – numbering 38 men, women and children from age 2 to 76 – and has them share their stories of strength and perseverance.

Admission is free; the general public is invited and welcome. Light refreshments will be available for purchase at the Coffee Klatch, starting at 10 a.m. Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road.

Spring Concert At Mowatt UMC

On April 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road, a free concert will be followed by light refreshments. Performers in the concert include April and Nucleo Vega from Harp 46, a Greenbelt favorite, and selected instrumental ensembles including pianist Ruth Bright and other graduate music students from the University of Maryland.

Home & Business Improvements

Remodeling-Repairs-Int. & Ext. Painting
Bathrooms-Basements-Kitchens
Ceramic Tile & Laminated Floors
Pressure Washing-Deck Care-Sheds

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301-345-1261

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Owner has over 20 years experience
Member of the Better Business Bureau
MHIC40475

Beltville Garden Club

PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 11

8 am-noon

High Point High School

Beltville (parking lot)

Quality plants grown by members

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday

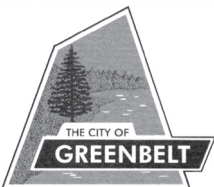
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women,
men and children!

Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road

Greenbelt, Md. **301-345-5111**



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING
Municipal Building, April 13, 2015 – 8:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
- Presentations
- Recognition of National Board Certified Teachers
- Earth Day Proclamation
- Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

- Petitions and Requests
(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)
- Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
- *Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS
- Advisory Planning Board, Report #2015-1 (Greenbelt Station Metro Shuttle Proposal)
- Greenbelt Station Conservation Easement
- County Legislation – CB-5-2015 & CB-6-2015
- Council Reports
*- Request for Use of Facilities

MEETINGS
NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee
For information call 301-474-8000.



2015 Egg Hunt Golden Egg Winners
Front: Robert Reeser, Gemma Owe and Gabrielle Oliver
Back: Mr. Bunny, Mr. Fiske with son Franklin Fiske, Natalie Hummel, and Miss Greenbelt, Krissy Beauchamp.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's hunt. We had over 500 participants!

AN ARTFUL AFTERNOON
Sunday, April 12 from 1-4pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road
FREE! All ages welcome.
Craft workshop 1:00pm-3:00pm: welcome spring with a “towers of flowers” art project led by Mary Gawlik. Visit art and historical exhibits and a studio open house and sale with our nine Artists in Residence, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Artist's Studio Space Available
City of Greenbelt's Artist in Residence Program
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road
Apply by May 8. New residencies begin in July.
24-hour access. 10' X 17' plus common areas.
\$179.45/month plus deposit.
Details and application at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts
301-397-2208

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 13-17
Monday, April 13 at 6:00pm, **Youth Advisory Committee** at Greenbelt Community Center, Rm 103, 15 Crescent Road.

Monday, April 13 at 8pm, **Regular City Council Meeting**, Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30pm, **Park and Recreation Advisory Board** at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, April 15
7:30pm: Budget Work Session re Museum/Grants Contributions
8:30pm: Budget Work Session re Public Safety
Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Both meetings will be covered live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Thursday, April 16 at 7:30pm, **Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB)** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Rd.

The schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR GREENBELT CARES FAMILY COUNSELING
Greenbelt CARES offers a Family Counseling Clinic on Wednesday evenings, 6pm to 9pm. Services are free of charge for Greenbelt residents, and for those in several zip codes surrounding the city. CARES currently has no waiting list, so immediate appointments are available. Families who are in need of parenting support to effectively manage academic, behavioral, or other issues impacting their young children or teens can contact the agency at 301 345-6660. In addition to CARES usual Family Clinic, two staff counselors are also offering Parent Child Interaction Therapy, which specifically addresses the needs of children ages two through six.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT GREENBELT CARES AT 301-345-6660

DONATION DROP-OFF
Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Parking lot between City Office and Community Ctr.
City of Greenbelt Recycling Office: 301-474-8308

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Seed Starting Workday: Friday, April 10 from 10am-1 pm
Public Works Greenhouse, 555 Crescent Road
Volunteers are needed to start seeds for the Chesapeake Education, Arts & Research Society (CHEARS) Three Sisters Demonstration Gardens.

Three Sisters Demonstration Gardens Workday
Saturday, April 11 from 8:30 am – 5 pm throughout Greenbelt (shifts available). Volunteers are needed to help plant seeds, transplant plants, pull weeds, rebuild weathered garden structures, and more. The schedule is listed below:
8:30-11am: Springhill Lake Rec. Ctr., 6101 Cherrywood Ln
11:30am-2pm: Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Pkwy
2:30–5pm: Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Please remember to bring community service forms for graduation requirements!
EARTH DAY WATERSHED CLEAN-UP: APRIL 18th

GREENBELT CARES SPRING 2015 GED COURSE-OFFERED IN 2 LOCATIONS
Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road
Registration: Monday, April 13 at 10am
Class held every Monday and Wednesday from 10am-12pm, through Wednesday, June 17, 2015.
This is a combined class, reviewing basic math and English skills, critical thinking and analytical skills in social studies, science, and computer skills.

Springhill Lake Recreation, 6101 Cherrywood Road
Registration: Tuesday, April 14 at 10am
Class held every Tuesday and Thursday.
GED I: 10am-12:00. GED II: 1- 3pm
The course runs through June 18, 2015.
GED I reviews basic math and English skills.
GED II reviews higher level math skills, critical thinking skills, writing skills and computer skills.

Students should bring pencil, pen, and a notebook. Students must be at least 16 years of age and have withdrawn from school in order to take the GED course.

Students are required to show proof of residency (i.e. current lease, phone or electric bill, driver's license or MVA I.D.

BUDGET continued from page 1

well, although a new one has just opened.

Williams noted that the income tax was expected to rise 2.5 percent, but Jordan added that valuations on utilities such as Pepco and Verizon were down. Williams noted this was not necessarily a trend but only normal fluctuation in values from year to year.

A big revenue drop in the budget is in Highway User revenues allocated by the State of Maryland to various subdivisions. Because of tight state budgets, these have become less certain than they once were; only through special legislative authorization has the city received over \$300,000 in the past two fiscal years.

For the coming fiscal year McLaughlin estimates this revenue at under \$100,000 but pending legislation could give Greenbelt an added \$265,000 for the new fiscal year. The outcome of this will be known before budget adoption, so council can decide then for what purpose to use these funds. Jordan said he was optimistic about the required legislation being enacted.

Greenbelt Kids

Recreation Department fee programs for Greenbelt children are to be budgeted so that fees make up 12.5 percent of program expenses. Williams noted this goal would be hard to achieve this year because of state increases to the minimum wage. It will be difficult to raise fees as sharply as the expected wage increases.

For the fifth year in a row, refuse collection fees are not proposed to be increased. The \$268 annual fee compares favorably to the \$356 county fee and those charged by Montgomery County jurisdictions.

Staff projected a decline in fees from red light cameras and speed cameras as motorists became aware of their locations. But the recently installed camera on westbound Greenbelt Road at Eleanor Roosevelt High School is a possible “game changer,” McLaughlin said, as it currently yields revenues at a \$450,000 annual rate, far exceeding next year’s revenue estimate of \$350,000 for all speed cameras. McLaughlin noted that the highway being on a downhill slope helped cars to speed, but “you still have to go 57 miles an hour in order to be caught.”

Interest rates remain low, preventing the city from earning much money from bank accounts. Instead, the city is maintaining account balances to avoid paying fees.

Electricity

Davis noted that the accompanying budget charts and graphs showed that energy reduction had not improved much in the past year. She was told that this was due to more degree days of heating and air conditioning caused by weather variances. The city’s goal is a 15 percent reduction in consumption.

Moran said he was negotiating a new contract for an electricity supplier. His first quote is a 5 percent lower rate than what the city currently pays. When he determines who is the best supplier, he said, council will need to approve within 24 hours or less because prices fluctuate so much. He thinks that the time in between the heating and cooling

seasons is a good time to shop. The city will continue to seek wind-generated power as other non-carbon sources are quite limited. Electricity cost is only a portion of the city’s power bill as it still has to use Pepco for distribution costs.

Animal Control

Davis asked why the animal control and traffic control budgets were not proposed for restructuring. The city’s organizational consultant, she said, had recommended that both operations be administered by the Police Department.

McLaughlin responded that he did not have such a budget recommendation. Jordan noted that he was supposed to have had one in December, to which McLaughlin responded that he would provide council with a memo on this item.

Animal control is currently administered in the Department of Planning and Community Development, which includes code enforcement. In the past, this program was administered by the Police Department at one time and by the Public Works Department at another, both as small, limited operations.

More recently, however, under Planning and Community Development, the program has become much more involved with a shelter being built and a no-kill program for strays being instituted.

Traffic control in the past has primarily consisted of the Public Works crews erecting traffic signs and expenses budgeted under street maintenance. However, operating costs of speed and red light cameras, which can also be considered traffic control devices, are accounted for in the Police budget.

UM Bus

Davis also noted that Greenbelt non-student ridership of the University of Maryland shuttle buses has been down with only 77 for the current year. A resident can buy a pass to use the shuttle buses, once available only to university students and employees.

McLaughlin noted the service was university-oriented and suitable only for those who might have the need to go in the same directions as the buses do. The annual pass for this service is \$10, he said. The city pays the University \$4,500 annually for Greenbelters with passes to use the service and the \$1,000 revenue estimate in the budget for the new fiscal year probably will not be reached, he said. Moran added that participation in other area cities is also low, even in College Park, where the bus runs up and down U.S. Route 1. He also noted that the Greenbelt fee was very nominal.

Jordan said there was a need to market the service more. Pope agreed, saying that residents in Greenbelt West, in particular, should be made aware of the service.

Wish List

In the past, council has developed a list of possible changes to the budget. Since most changes were additions, the list became known as the Wish List. It has been suggested that this was not an appropriate name for the list. The name Additional Items to Be Considered was suggested, but it was agreed this is a name still in transition.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said he didn’t want to see

a list. “This is a good budget that doesn’t call for a tax increase,” he said. Nevertheless, Pope asked to place the dog park on the “whatever it’s called,” without elaborating why.

Economic Development

The budget includes \$50,000 for a Homeowners Investment Program without specifying how the program would work. Undertaking such a program was recommended by the city’s economic development consultant, the Sage Group. One possibility would be to freeze the assessable value of the property for a period of time after a homeowner undertakes qualifying improvements to the property. The city suffers neither an expense nor loss but forgoes increased revenue in order to encourage upgrading of the property.

McLaughlin noted that this process would not work, however, because assessments are determined by the state and taxes are collected by the county. He thought the city would instead have to rebate the amount of increased tax paid by homeowners, which would require inclusion of a budget item.

Council discussed the possibility of commercial incentives, noting the current high office vacancy rate. McLaughlin attributed this to the national economy; he noted that Tyson’s Corner had a 25 percent vacancy rate. Could an incentive be given to a tenant who fixed up an office space? It was noted that the current proposals of tax freeze or rebate would not benefit the tenant but instead the building owner.

General Government

Three new positions were noted. For the city manager’s office a new position of deputy city manager/management analyst is proposed. McLaughlin noted that this additional person would be employed for only four to five months of the new fiscal year but that the budget impact would be greater in the following year.

For information technology, a help desk analyst was added to this budget, who would be employed late in the year with the full cost impact taking place in the new fiscal year. Worley told council that the third position of PC support specialist had been filled. These new positions were recommended by the city’s consultant on organizational assessment.

Council

Jordan noted a \$2,000 budget item for special programs in the city council budget. He noted his initiative to have a Mayor’s Coffee for business people. He said he would like to have another budget item for things like that. Having a mayor’s affair is a new venture for the city as past practice has been for similar activities to be listed as council events.

Davis asked staff to do a comparison survey of council salaries in other cities. She said she was not seeking an increase for this budget but would like to have the information available.

Elections

This will be an election year and funds have been budgeted. Davis noted that the budget was less than for the last election. McLaughlin said the Board of Elections would be submitting its budget request and that the city will have to fund whatever it needs.

Dumbarton Oaks Park Opens Gate Sunday

A restoration celebration will be held Sunday, April 12 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. to mark the 74th year of Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. The spring garden will be at peak bloom and there will be exhibits, walking tours and children’s activities. A conservancy, formed four years ago, is working on restoring Beatrix Farrand’s design. The full schedule is at dopark.org or scott@dopark.org.

UMD Chamber Jazz

The UMD Chamber Jazz Combos will perform free concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

911

Worley told council that a new, interactive 911 system was in the works that can handle text messages and GPS locations for the emergency dispatchers. This is a national initiative with which local governments will be forced to comply. McLaughlin said the city needs to do it as well. The good thing, he said, is that the county will fund the implementation. Although mandated to begin January 1, most jurisdictions will not be able to comply, he said, since there are a number of unresolved issues. The county might be ready in six months, he added.

The budget is posted on the city’s website, greenbeltnmd.gov.

MakerSpace Hosts Mini Maker Faire

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is excited to host the second Greenbelt Mini Maker Faire on Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Maker Faire is the Greatest Show and Tell on Earth – a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement. Part science fair, part county fair and part something entirely new, Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students and commercial exhibitors.

Our mini version of the faire is a small community event, with local people and companies meeting up at Roosevelt Center Plaza. There you will see a DIY outdoor antenna and software radio capable of tuning in a wide spectrum of broadcasts from amateur and citizens’ band radio to television broadcasts and weather radio. On the broadcast side, we’ll show you how to make your own low power radio station!

If you’re interested in traditional crafts, we’ll have jewelry makers and an old fashioned metalsmith. And we have not left out the art! We have both professionals and youth groups wanting to show you their masterpieces. Speaking of youth, we have lots of fun activities planned including a massive experiment in cardboard fort building. We can never have enough materials, so please bring your own cardboard and decorations to style your construction.

For more details visit faire.make125.org.

– George Boyce

Utopia Film Festival Presents

Sunday, April 12th & Wednesday, April 15th

Beginning at 8 PM

“Operation Bethlehem”
and “Strong Enough to Fight”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels



Director of Technical Services

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. is seeking a Director of Technical Services to join our team. The Dir. of Tech Services manages the daily operations of the Technical Services Department; administers permit review processes; executes capital improvement programs, negotiates and evaluates proposals; monitors contract work; undertakes engineering and architectural studies; administers unit resale inspection program; reviews and processes insurance claims for property damages and/or losses; serves as Safety Officer; and develops annual department budget. Must have a Bachelors’ Degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering, with five or more years of experience in the building construction and/or maintenance field. Please submit resumes to mmcneill@ghi.coop.

SKOLNIK continued from page 1

in 1954. She saw her role as supporting Al’s keen interest in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) board meetings, and his fascination with city budgets.

During the 1950s the News Review suffered its own budget crisis. The paper depended then as now on advertising. Delivered free to every home in Greenbelt, the all-volunteer staff struggled financially from week to week to print the news. Elaine chaired the first of several fund drives held over the years. “We went from court to court,” she states. “Greenbelters gave \$1 or \$5 to save the newspaper.” It was her first taste of civic activism, and her first foray in fighting for a cause she held dear.

Her first big development story occurred in 1959 when the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) presented the Greenbelt/College Park Master Plan. “Who could forget the nearly one thousand persons protesting the Master Plan at the Center School (now the Community Center) gym,” she recalls passionately. Citizens fought against high density zoning within the core of Greenbelt. The next bitter fight a decade later brought the community together to prevent a high school from being built on Northway extended which would have caused the widening of Ridge Road to accommodate school bus and automobile traffic.” She laughs while remembering how “we got no respect from

the Board of Education. In fact we were dubbed ‘those Greenbelt kooks’,” she recalls. But, after a five-year battle, in 1976 “the much needed high school, prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was built in East Greenbelt.” She smiles with satisfaction.

As Elaine describes the packed carloads of angry citizens trekking to Upper Marlboro to protest against the Master Plan or the school site, she is proud of the role the News Review played in galvanizing Greenbelt residents into action. The Save Our Community Committee and the Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt committee formed to preserve the green areas. And the News Review was the spark that ignited the actions by the citizens and the city council. Elaine attended most of the meetings, notebook in hand. Later she would confer with Al, passing on her notes to him. He wrote the stories. But she was the eyes and ears. Her activism was in full gear, she explains. Those were her happiest times on the News Review.

The low point came with what she describes as the “devastating four year law suit against the News Review and its president, my soul mate Al...” It was the summer of 1966 when Elaine stood in the kitchen of her house on Northway stirring chocolate pudding. A knock came at the door, and a man in uniform handed her some papers. She was stunned to discover that the News

Review and Alfred E. Skolnik were being sued for \$2 million by a local real estate developer, Charles Bresler. The suit charged that the paper had published defamatory remarks made against the developer by citizens at public sessions of the Greenbelt City Council in October 1965. A Prince George’s County jury in January 1968, found the remarks libelous and a \$17,500 judgment was awarded to the developer. The case went to the Maryland Court of Appeals a year later and was upheld. In a 1970 landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturned the lower court’s ruling. The Greenbelt News Review was responsible for updating the libel laws of Maryland and broadening the constitutional defenses of reporters against libel suits, Elaine proudly proclaims.


The victory was sweet, coming after four agonizing years. The Skolnik family looked forward to a normal happy life once more. Elaine recalls that “Al dreamed that when he retired he would devote himself full time on his beloved newspaper.” He would insure “that its goals served the public as originally intended...to remain non-partisan in politics, to print the news accurately and regularly, to make its pages an open forum for civic affairs, to develop a staff of volunteer writers and to develop a Greenbelt philosophy of life,” Elaine quotes from the first 1937 issue of the Cooperator, later renamed the

Greenbelt News Review. But such was not to be. Al suffered a fatal heart attack on his way home from work in March 1977. He was 56 years old. The late Roger Clark, the attorney who represented the News Review in the libel suit, described Al as a person who “responded with courage, vigor, perseverance and a healthy outrage. It is because of men like him that our freedoms remain inviolate.” Elaine assumed the presidency of the News Review to carry on Al’s dreams and keep his spirit alive. For the next nine years, she performed the dual role of president and assignment editor for most news stories. She relinquished her role as president in 1986, but she never stopped worrying about the financial health of the paper or whether or not someone was available to cover a particular GHI or city council meeting. She cherishes her role as investigative journalist on

development issues although she is dismayed by the loss of her personal contacts with developers. Today, she says regretfully, “a developer could be a conglomerate, and I’m told ‘Talk to my attorney.’ I can’t have a dialogue with the developer anymore,” she muses.

Though she is no longer a fixture at the news desk on Tuesday nights when the work on the News Review is accomplished, she is frequently in touch with its writers and editors. She thrives on being able to identify the current issues and to assign a reporter to cover a story. Her forte is her remarkable institutional memory. She will spend hours with young University of Maryland journalism interns distilling the history of Metroland or some other complex development issue. She will hand them a dozen or so old issues of the News Review so they can bone up on the pertinent

See SKOLNIK, page 9



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SKOLNIK

continued from page 7

facts. She will tell them what to look for and who to interview. With a gleam in her eye, she says that the Metroland development will go on for years just like the ICC (Inter County Connector) controversy which she has assiduously followed for the past 40 years.

Elaine reluctantly embraces change. She has seen the News Review go from a four-page paper printed by offset and later letterpress processes to today's 16-page papers using the latest in computer technologies. She is proud of the computers and fax machines that line the walls of the News Review office. She can't imagine returning to what she calls the dungeon, the cluttered basement at 15 Parkway where the News Review staffers toiled for many years before moving into sunny quarters in the Community Center in 1995.

She married her second husband Victor Nicholson in 1985 and soon after immersed herself in Vic's dreams concerning the future of cable TV. Vic was a pioneer in the cable TV industry and worked tirelessly for years to establish a broad-band two-way video highway. Elaine attended meetings with Vic and helped him with his correspondence and press releases. He also supported her, waiting patiently outside the city offices where the then city manager Jim Giese accused her of snooping. He drove her wherever she needed to go, her constant companion and soul mate.

Elaine's slight frame belies a tough inner strength. She is keenly aware of loss and quotes from a book "Real Moments" by Barbara DeAngeles that she says echoes some of her own thoughts. In it, DeAngeles states "loss will come as we age and are no longer vital...when our children grow up and we lose their innocent, unconditional love...when death takes our grandparents and then our parents from us, and suddenly we are the elders in the family..."

"The journey," DeAngeles writes, "between what you once were and who you are becoming is where the dance of life really takes place."

Elaine Skolnik Nicholson is still engaged in her journey – not along the quieter edges, she says firmly, but looking forward to each day's challenges to stimulate her mind. With a mischievous twinkle in her clear brown eyes she says that she plans to write a book entitled "Developers I Have Known" to be published after her demise.

"You pick your niche" in life, she affirms. Surely, the citizens of Greenbelt have benefited from the niche this grand lady has carved.

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Democratic Club On Pension Reform

The speaker at the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club meeting on Friday, April 17 will be Maryland State Senator James Rosapepe, who has said, "Today, half of private sector working people have no retirement plans beyond Social Security." Rosapepe will discuss legislation he is proposing to create the Maryland Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program and Trust. If passed, this would cover the over a million Marylanders who are not covered by employer-sponsored plans.

A state task force including state delegates and senators, State Treasurer Nancy Kropp, former Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, retirees, employers, labor unions and financial firms has been formed to explore and address the issue of financial challenges in retirement.

The proposed legislation is Senate Bill 312, with companion house bill HB 421.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbriar Community Building.

Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage Talk

Greenbelt Climate Action Network is hosting Lessons from Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage on Friday, April 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 202. For details contact Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234 or see facebook.com/events/1405197506458580/

GCF Grant Deadline Is April 15

Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) has \$5,000 to give to new initiatives that will enhance the cultural, artistic, educational, recreational, social or environmental vitality of Greenbelt.

The Greenbelt Community Foundation is encouraging past grantees to apply for new grants. The deadline for spring applications is April 15 and they may be emailed to info@greenbeltfoundation.net or mailed to P.O. Box 234, Greenbelt, Md. 20768.

The deadline for the fall has been changed from September 15 to October 15.

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MOVING SALE – Women’s clothing small/large, \$5-20; VHS tapes, 2 for \$1; desk, \$20; Tinker Bell purple twin comforter, \$20; Tinker Bell twin sheet set, \$10; pink Disney television, no remote, \$50; pink crib canopy, \$10; two swivel stools, \$20 both; two 14 inch antenna for Toyota Corolla, \$20; brown sofa & love seat, \$400; framed pictures, \$5-40. PJ at 240-554-7894

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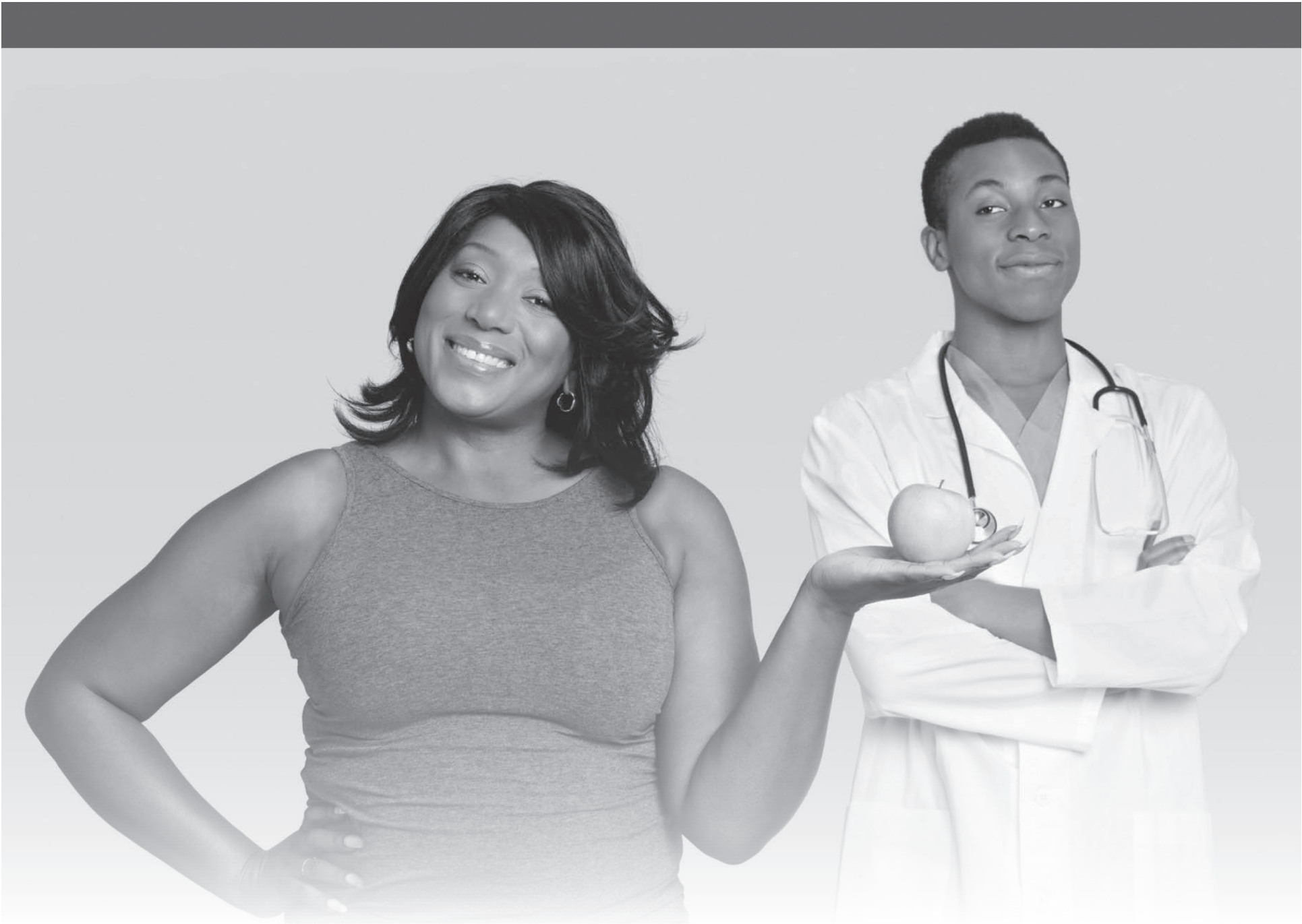
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scaped yard with many perennials.
Patio, shed and large, fenced yard
backs to woodlands. Hardwood floors.
2-Story Addit. - Fenced Corner Lot -
4 BR, 2 BA GHI townhome w/GAS heat,
CAC, 2 fireplaces & more. Great work and
multiple amazing features. WOW!
Corner Lot - Large Floorplan GHI with
ADDITION 3rd BR on main level.
Separate den/office. Fully fenced
back and side yard. Walk to R. Center!
Large Floorplan GHI townhome -
Separate den/office on 1st fl. Remode-
led kitchen, w/SS, large wood lami-
nate flooring & more. Nice! \$149,900
Waldorf - 3 Br, 1 1/2 Ba. Townhome
with modern upgrades, large kitchen
and new hardwoods. Spacious dining
area with sliding glass doors. \$160,000
Upper Level GHI Townhome - Modern
home w/SS, tile under area & full-
sized bath. Hardwood floors,
microwave, modern cabs. & more.
Block Townhome - Addition - Re-
modeled kitchen w/ granite ctrs,
d/w. Cherry wood flrs, fenced yard. 1st.
flr. addition used as den/bedroom.
Block Townhome - 2 bedroom town-
home with large screened porch. Mod-
ern kitchen. Just a short walk to Roose-
velt Center. Priced to sell at \$150,000.
GHI Block Townhome - 3 Br unit with-
upgraded kitchen, large dining area
& laundry on 2nd floor. Large Shed!
Short walk to Roosevelt Center.
Brick GHI Townhome - 11' x 17' mas-
ter bedroom, 2nd br. Large-capacity
front-loading w/d in sep. laundry area.
Laminate flooring downstairs.
Corner Lot With Addition - 2 br GHI
frame townhome with front addition &
cath. ceilings. Remodeled throughout.

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center



Looking Great Never Felt So Good

*Weight Loss Surgery Helps to Improve Overall Health.
It May Reduce or Eliminate the Need for Some Medications.*

Obesity is often linked to diabetes, sleep apnea, heart disease and many other conditions. Bariatric surgery may help.


Doctors Community Hospital’s Bariatric and Weight Loss Center provides professional, innovative and compassionate care to support people during their weight loss journeys. **In fact, we were the first hospital in Prince George’s County to offer minimally invasive bariatric surgery using the daVinci® robotic surgical system.** This type of surgery may result in reduced pain, shorter hospitalization and faster recovery.

Our comprehensive program provides:

- + Experienced surgeons and a compassionate medical team
- + Access to weight management and behavior modification therapy
- + Advanced bariatric surgery technology
- + Dedicated bariatric suites
- + Access to additional services — Joslin Diabetes Center, Sleep Center, Comprehensive Orthopedic Services and others — all conveniently located at Doctors Community Hospital to further your overall health goals

If you are an adult who is at least 30 pounds overweight, call us today to learn whether bariatric weight loss surgery is right for you! **We accept most insurance plans and welcome new patients.**

301-DCH-4YOU | 301-324-4968 | DCHweightloss.org



**DOCTORS
COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL**

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